

REMARKS

Amendment summary

Claims 1-36 are canceled.

Claims 37-40 are newly added. Support for these claims may be found at least, e.g., at pages 3-4 and page 9, line 18 to page 10, line 12 (disclosing the optional presence of a binder).

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Response to claim rejections

Applicants note that claims 1-36 have been canceled, thus rendering the rejections set forth in the previous Office Action moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the previously-cited references fail to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention.

Because the particulate composite used in the presently claimed invention is pressed, the noble metal therein is uniformly distributed within the particulate composite. Therefore, a conducting path, formed in the activator, improves the collecting properties of the anode, and Li can be released from the activator during discharging, thereby resulting in increase in the charge/discharge efficiency.

The activator layer used in the presently claimed invention is formed by CVD, vapor deposition, or sputtering, and does not include a binder. In addition, the noble metal is uniformly distributed in the activator layer. Therefore, a conducting path, which is formed in the activator layer, improves the collecting properties of the anode, and Li can be released from the activator during discharging, resulting in increase in the charge/discharge efficiency.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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